

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

AUG 22 1983

Meeting With Steelworkers Union Local in Ruston - July 30, 1983  
Concerning ASARCO - Arsenic NESHAP

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Rulemaking Docket

On July 30, 1983, EPA Region 10 staff and ASARCO (Larry Lindquist - plant manager) met with members of the steelworkers union local (United Steelworkers of America, Local 25) concerning the proposed arsenic NESHAP for ASARCO. Following brief presentations by Clark Gaulding of EPA and Larry Lindquist of ASARCO, there was a question and answer period. The following questions were asked and comments made by the audience during that period:

1. If someone has lung cancer, how do you know it is not from smoking?
2. The local area is lowest in the country for cancer rate.
3. A doctor said all people have cancer in their systems.
4. I worked twenty years in the plant, wish people outside wouldn't put things in the paper saying ASARCO causes cancer and frighten people and then say they are not sure. People then have their minds made up and don't want to hear anything else. In those twenty years, the company has made progress, done tremendous things, to protect people inside and outside but can only spend so much at a time.
5. Garden sprays contain arsenic.
6. Most people are misinformed, how much input do they have to the decision?
7. Ruckelshaus said the standard was higher than it should be, will give the impression that the decision's already made. Peoples' minds are already made up with statements that risk is very high; EPA should wait for all information before making statements.
8. How do you know it's not St. Regis?
9. Will EPA tell everyone we have no proof that arsenic causes cancer?
10. (Larry Lindquist) There is a risk at high exposures but no risk at low exposures.
11. The Tacoma News Tribune said Tacoma's cancer rate is very low; other areas must have worse hazards.
12. I worked on the converters 35 years; it was so bad you couldn't see. I don't know of anyone getting cancer; I feel O.K.
13. The people in the North end aren't scared of the plant.
14. I've lived here 61 years, I am 88 years old and still breathing.

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CONCURRENCES

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15. Cancer doesn't kill; you build up immunity to it.
16. Tacoma News Tribune said all arsenic in the bay is from the smelter, ignores the fact that arsenic is in all seawater.
17. Why is EPA picking on the smelter? Arsenic is used in other products.
18. Why allow restaurants along the waterfront?
19. Point Defiance Park has healthy plants, animals, etc.
20. I've lived here twenty years, I don't have cancer and am very healthy.
21. I have seen seagulls nest at the smelter; animals know where it's safe.
22. Since findings are inconclusive on arsenic, EPA should do more work on finding technologies to help the problem.
23. While proposing, EPA should subsidize controls at ASARCO since EPA isn't sure it will work.
24. Why is there a big difference on emission numbers and what are we doing about it?
25. Keep it out of the press until EPA and the company are sure; press distorts and says wrong.
26. Does company cooperate and, if so, what difference does it make?
27. What took EPA so long and what did Superfund have to do with it?
28. How do we know arsenic isn't from Mt. St. Helens? Converters are minivolcanoes.
29. EPA standards are causing stress, stress causes cancer.